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Who's Really Counted as Unemployed?

What does the term "unemployed" really mean? When people are talking about the "unemployment rate," what are they really talking about? In this article we will discuss who is considered unemployed and therefore arrive at a more clear understanding of what the unemployment rate really is and how it is calculated.

Before we discuss the methodology used to calculate the unemployment rate, let's take a few minutes to define who is included in South Dakota's labor force, who is employed and who is considered unemployed.

South Dakota's labor force consists of only those people who are 16 years of age or older who are counted as being either employed or unemployed.

Employed is defined as those people who did any work at all for pay or profit during the period of time involved. This includes all part-time and temporary work, as well as regular full-time, year-around employment. People are also counted as employed if they have a job but did not work because they were on vacation; ill; involved in a labor dispute; prevented from working by adverse weather conditions; or were taking time off for various personal reasons.

Also counted as employed are "unpaid family workers," which includes people who work 15 hours a week or more without pay in a family-operated enterprise. This includes such workers as a youngster working in a parents' store who is not paid or a farmer's spouse who helps on the farm and is not paid. Each person is counted only once, regardless of whether or not he/she holds more than one job.

To be counted as unemployed a person must meet three criteria: he/she has actively searched for work in the past four weeks, is currently available for work, and does not have a job. In order to meet the job searching criteria, a person must meet with prospective employers; check with friends or relatives regarding job prospects; place or answer advertisements; write letters of application; register at a public or private employment office; or be on a union or professional employment register.

Two groups of people do not have to engage in a specific job seeking activity to be counted as unemployed. They are: people waiting to start a new job within 30 days and workers waiting to be recalled from a layoff. In all other cases except temporary illness, these individuals must be currently available for work.

In addition to those who have lost their jobs and those receiving unemployment insurance compensation, the unemployed also include workers who have quit their jobs to look for other employment; new workers looking for their first jobs; and experienced workers looking for jobs after an absence from the labor force.

Some people may not be working but are not counted as being unemployed. As stated earlier, a person must be actively searching for work to be considered as unemployed. This is what distinguishes one who is unemployed from one who is not in the labor force. Those who are not working or not in the labor force include such people as students; those with family or home responsibilities; retired or disabled individuals; those who have no interest in working; and persons described as discouraged workers.

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Discouraged workers are defined as those people who want a job but are not searching for employment because they feel that no jobs are available. An example would be a person in a rural area where job opportunities are very limited.

How's the Unemployment Rate Really Calculated?

Now that we have defined who is employed, who is unemployed, and who is and is not in the labor force, it is time to look at how the unemployment rate is calculated.

Each month, the number of people who are employed is calculated based on several sources of data. One of these sources is the Current Population Survey (CPS), which is conducted on a monthly basis by the Bureau of the Census. Based on the results of this sample survey, every person age 16 years and older in the civilian, non-institutional population is classified as either employed, unemployed or not in the labor force. Approximately 1,000 households in South Dakota are included in this sample each month.

Current Population Survey (CPS) data is used as at least one component of labor force estimates in all 50 states. In some states the CPS survey is so large that it is the only source of labor force data collected. However, in South Dakota as well as 39 other states and the District of Columbia, the CPS sample alone is not large enough to provide accurate monthly labor force data. Therefore, data from the sources below are also used to calculate the labor force.

One of these sources is the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. The CES program is a monthly employment survey with approximately 1,800 participating nonfarm employers in South Dakota. In addition to the results of this survey, other methods are used to ensure that others who are employed in South Dakota, but who would not be counted otherwise, are also included in the employment levels. These other people are agricultural workers, and self-employed and unpaid family workers.

Another source that is used when calculating labor force estimates each month is the unemployment insurance (UI) system. This system provides a count of a portion of those who are unemployed and receiving unemployment insurance benefits. In addition to including those who are eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits, unemployment levels also include those who remain unemployed after exhausting unemployment benefits. Also included in unemployment levels are the following: former workers who delay or never file unemployment claims, but are looking for work; those who have been denied benefits because they are not qualified to receive them; unemployed federal and railroad workers (who are covered by their respective unemployment insurance programs); unemployed domestic workers (such as housekeepers) and agricultural workers (such as hired hands); self-employed (such as farmers who have recently left farming) and unpaid family workers; unemployed individuals who are not covered by unemployment insurance (such as some elected officials); those entering the labor market for the first time (such as students); and those who are returning to the labor force after a period of time, who have not yet found employment.

After all this information has been compiled, labor force statistics (the number of employed and unemployed) are then calculated. Next, the unemployment rate is calculated by dividing the number of unemployed by the total labor force. The unemployment rate is then expressed as a percent of the labor force.

The Unemployment Rate in South Dakota is Seasonal in Some Industries

Like everything else in South Dakota, believe it or not, employment is also seasonal. The construction industry is a good example of seasonality in employment in South Dakota. During spring, summer and fall, many construction jobs become available and this industry is usually at its peak employment for the year. As the weather turns colder, construction activity begins to taper off , which causes employment to decline and unemployment to rise. Tourism-related industries in South Dakota follow much the same pattern as the construction industry does. Thus, because many of South Dakota's employers are in these seasonal industries, it is not surprising that South Dakota's overall labor force tends to follow the seasonal employment changes set by these industries.

However, sometimes the unemployment rate either decreases or increases when seasonal patterns indicate that just the opposite effect should occur. Several individual factors or combinations of many factors can counter seasonal movement of the unemployment rate.

The Unemployment Rate Has Many Twists and Turns

At times, the rate may be forced upward by a slowdown in the economy that usually results in decreased employment and an increase in the number of unemployed. However, when there is increased unemployment in addition to an increase in the number of employed, it is an indicator that workers are entering the job market at a faster pace than they can be absorbed. Some of these people may be searching for employment for the first time, while others may have dropped out of the labor force at an earlier time and are now re-entering the job market because they feel they have a better chance of finding employment.

Determining the number of workers in South Dakota, the number of unemployed and the subsequent computation of the size of the labor force and the unemployment rate is a carefully measured process that is consistent from month to month and year to year. Just as important as the computations is the interpretation of these statistics. Evaluating the movement and trends of these figures as a group, in conjunction with the known or expected patterns they follow, can often lead to an insight and perspective not possible when they are examined individually.

South Dakota's Labor Market in September

In September 1990, nonfarm wage and salaried employment in South Dakota was 283,000. This is an increase of 3,800 jobs (or 1.4 percent) from year-ago employment levels. All private industry groups showed employment increases over year-ago employment levels except the wholesale trade industry and the transportation, communication and public utilities industry, which remained stable.

The retail trade industry exhibited the largest employment growth by adding 1,500 jobs from year-ago employment levels. Preparation for, and the grand openings of, a new chain of stores in South Dakota boosted employment in this industry. Other divisions showing job growth in this industry were food stores; general merchandise and accessory stores; automotive dealers and gas stations; and eating and drinking establishments.

The services industry exhibited the second largest employment growth (1,400 jobs). This job growth seems to be distributed throughout all divisions of this industry.

Month-to-Month Employment Changes

The nonfarm employment level in September 1990 jumped to 283,000, increasing by 1,900 jobs from August 1990. Most of the fluctuation in employment within the various industries was due to traditional seasonal changes occurring in September. The industries affected by these seasonal changes were: services; transportation and public utilities; construction; retail trade; and government.

Government noted an increase of 3,500 jobs in September. State education increased 800 jobs and local education increased 4,700 jobs. Most of the job increase in the education sectors was due to the start of the new school year. The large job increases in the education divisions of government offset the decline of summer youth program participants and the end of employment for people hired to do maintenance work in parks and on streets.

The job increase of 1,300 in the educational services division of the services industry followed the trend of employment increases that occurred in government as schools opened. There were also slight employment increases noted in the miscellaneous division of this industry due to the South Dakota State Fair which is traditionally held in September. However, these employment gains were countered by the decrease in employment that occurred in the division of hotels and amusements. The decrease of 1,100 jobs in this division was primarly due to the end of the tourism season in South Dakota.

The retail trade industry (which was down 800 jobs from August) also felt the impact of the end of the tourism season. Much of the job decrease in this industry occurred in the sectors of restaurants and miscellaneous retail (such as gift and souvenir shops).

The start of the new school year also affected employment in the transportation division of the transportation and public utilities industry. Most of the 200-job increase in this division over the month occurred as school bus drivers once again resumed the transportation of students.

South Dakota's labor force was 363,600 in September, with 351,300 people in the state being employed and 12,300 being unemployed. The unemployment rate was 3.4 percent.

Persons in the Labor Force: Employed/Unemployed

	September 1990 (1)				September 1989			
	Labor Force(2)	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force(2)	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
United States	124,779,000	117,961,000	6,818,000	5.5	123,828,000	117,498,000	6,330,000	5.1
South Dakota	363,600	351,300	12,300	3.4	364,100	350,000	14,000	3.8
Sioux Falls MSA	74,093	72,308	1,785	2.4	74,032	71,786	2,246	3.0
Rapid City MSA	39,451	38,016	1,435	3.6	40,162	38,657	1,505	3.7
Aurora	1,469	1,454	15	1.0	1,425	1,403	22	1.5
Beadle	9,612	9,282	330	3.4	9,225	8,933	292	3.2
Bennett	1,578	1,533	45	2.9	1,567	1,539	28	1.8
Bon Homme	3,626	3,569	57	1.6	3,632	3,475	157	4.3
Brookings	15,580	14,932	648	4.2	15,591	14,928	663	4.3
Brown	19,684	18,577	1,107	5.6	19,822	18,252	1,570	7.9
Brule	2,815	2,785	30	1.1	2,715	2,676	39	1.4
Buffalo	448	411	37	8.3	466	435	31	6.7
Butte	3,612	3,441	171	4.7	3,485	3,325	160	4.6
Campbell	1,096	1,081	15	1.4	1,118	1,112	6	.5
Charles Mix	3,905	3,788	117	3.0	3,969	3,728	241	6.1
Clark	2,013	1,939	74	3.7	1,986	1,879	107	5.4
Clay	7,410	7,038	372	5.0	7,235	6,918	317	4.4
Codington	12,727	12,136	591	4.6	12,454	11,974	480	3.9
Corson	1,607	1,421	186	11.6	1,661	1,431	230	13.8
Custer	4,244	4,132	112	2.6	4,183	4,051	132	3.2
Davison	9,371	9,167	204	2.2	9,501	9,361	140	1.5
Day	3,381	3,237	144	4.3	3,607	3,388	219	6.1
Deuel	2,346	2,229	117	5.0	2,182	2,154	28	1.3
Dewey	2,037	1,883	154	7.6	2,246	2,063	183	8.1
Douglas	1,652	1,610	42	2.5	1,768	1,740	28	1.6
Edmunds	2,068	2,011	57	2.8	2,159	2,078	81	3.8
Fall River	3,524	3,363	161	4.6	3,623	3,440	183	5.1
Faulk	1,227	1,207	20	1.6	1,317	1,300	17	1.3
Grant	4,224	4,090	134	3.2	4,384	4,235	149	3.4
Gregory	2,323	2,283	40	1.7	2,493	2,431	62	2.5
Haakon	1,184	1,154	30	2.5	1,207	1,179	28	2.3
Hamlin	2,638	2,536	102	3.9	2,439	2,372	67	2.7
Hand	1,973	1,948	25	1.3	2,043	2,001	42	2.1
Hanson	1,478	1,453	25	1.7	1,563	1,529	34	2.2
Harding	816	799	17	2.1	848	834	14	1.7
Hughes	8,329	8,101	228	2.7	8,293	8,066	227	2.7
Hutchinson	4,122	4,080	42	1.0	4,476	4,361	115	2.6
Hyde	844	827	17	2.0	1,003	913	90	9.0
Jackson	1,795	1,738	57	3.2	1,732	1,653	79	4.6

Persons in the Labor Force: Employed/Unemployed

	September 1990 (1)				September 1989			
	Labor Force(2)	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force(2)	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
Jerauld	1,219	1,182	37	3.0	1,177	1,155	22	1.9
Jones	709	679	30	4.2	692	681	11	1.6
Kingsbury	2,703	2,671	32	1.2	2,895	2,802	93	3.2
Lake	5,105	4,926	179	3.5	5,416	4,970	446	8.2
Lawrence	12,556	12,050	506	4.0	11,764	11,247	517	4.4
Lincoln	7,273	7,122	151	2.1	7,505	7,334	171	2.3
Lyman	1,455	1,418	37	2.5	1,607	1,562	45	2.8
McCook	2,974	2,825	149	5.0	2,953	2,886	67	2.3
McPherson	1,552	1,510	42	2.7	1,502	1,454	48	3.2
Marshall	2,272	2,215	57	2.5	2,321	2,273	48	2.1
Meade	9,763	9,482	281	2.9	9,143	8,834	309	3.4
Mellette	829	799	30	3.6	838	810	28	3.3
Miner	1,486	1,446	40	2.7	1,685	1,665	20	1.2
Minnehaha	74,093	72,308	1,785	2.4	74,032	71,786	2,246	3.0
Moody	3,206	3,149	57	1.8	3,343	3,233	110	3.3
Pennington	39,451	38,016	1,435	3.6	40,162	38,657	1,505	3.7
Perkins	2,499	2,454	45	1.8	2,451	2,420	31	1.3
Potter	1,520	1,463	57	3.8	1,551	1,486	65	4.2
Roberts	4,640	4,394	246	5.3	4,657	4,393	264	5.7
Sanborn	1,093	1,073	20	1.8	1,078	1,067	11	1.0
Shannon	2,310	2,111	199	8.6	2,170	1,937	233	10.7
Spink	3,620	3,541	79	2.2	3,607	3,469	138	3.8
Stanley	1,393	1,328	65	4.7	1,531	1,450	81	5.3
Sully	780	758	22	2.8	822	808	14	1.7
Todd	2,834	2,608	226	8.0	2,851	2,570	281	9.9
Tripp	3,276	3,194	82	2.5	3,488	3,421	67	1.9
Turner	4,250	4,131	119	2.8	4,298	4,208	90	2.1
Union	6,735	6,531	204	3.0	5,740	5,440	300	5.2
Walworth	3,042	2,930	112	3.7	3,047	2,918	129	4.2
Yankton	11,016	10,654	362	3.3	11,136	10,836	300	2.7
Ziebach	1,206	1,127	79	6.6	1,174	1,112	62	5.3

(1) Preliminary data subject to revision.
(2) Labor force estimates include employed and unemployed civilians 16 years old and older by place of residence.
(3) The seasonally-adjusted rates which were announced by the national government were 5.7 and 5.3. The data in this table are not seasonally-adjusted.

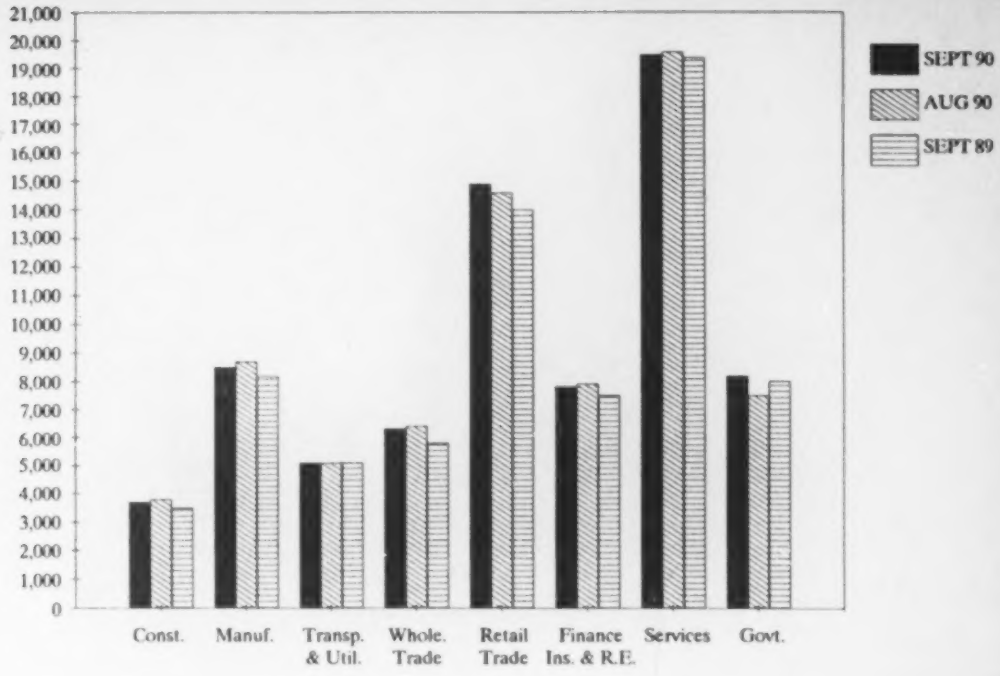
SOURCE: Developed by the South Dakota Department of Labor in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

South Dakota Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment (Jobs by Industry)

	Sept. 1990	Aug 1990	Sept. 1989	Percent Change From Last Month	Percent Change From Last Year
TOTAL	283,000	281,100	279,200	.7	1.4
TOTAL PRIVATE	223,000	224,600	218,900	-.7	1.9
GOODS PRODUCING	46,900	47,900	46,000	-2.1	2.0
MINING	2,800	2,900	2,700	-3.4	3.7
CONSTRUCTION	11,800	12,300	11,600	-4.1	1.7
MANUFACTURING	32,300	32,700	31,700	-1.2	1.9
Durable Goods	18,100	18,700	18,000	-3.2	.6
Fabricated Metals & Machinery	10,500	10,900	10,700	-3.7	-1.9
Nondurable Goods	14,200	14,000	13,700	1.4	3.6
Food & Kindred Products	7,400	7,400	7,200	.0	2.8
Printing & Publishing	3,100	3,000	3,100	3.3	.0
SERVICE PRODUCING	236,100	233,200	233,200	1.2	1.2
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	13,600	13,400	13,700	1.5	-.7
Transportation	8,200	7,800	8,200	5.1	.0
Communication	3,200	3,100	3,200	3.2	.0
Electric/Gas/Sanitary Services	2,300	2,400	2,300	-4.2	.0
TRADE	75,900	77,000	74,400	-1.4	2.0
Wholesale Trade	18,500	18,800	18,500	-1.6	.0
Durable Goods	8,400	8,700	8,500	-3.4	-1.2
Nondurable Goods	10,100	10,100	10,000	.0	1.0
Retail Trade	57,400	58,200	55,900	-1.4	2.7
General Merchandise/Apparel	10,100	9,800	9,700	3.1	4.1
Food Stores	8,900	8,700	8,400	2.3	6.0
FINANCE, INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE	16,500	16,500	16,100	.0	2.5
Finance	10,900	11,000	10,600	-.9	2.8
Depository Institutions	6,100	6,100	5,800	.0	5.2
Nondepository Institutions	4,200	4,200	4,200	.0	.0
Insurance Carriers, Agents & Brokers	3,900	3,900	3,800	.0	2.6
SERVICES	70,100	69,800	68,700	.4	2.0
Hotels/Motels & Amusements	9,200	10,300	9,100	-10.7	1.1
Personal and Business	8,500	8,100	8,200	4.9	3.7
Medical and Health Services	26,500	26,500	25,900	.0	2.3
Hospitals	12,200	12,200	11,800	.0	3.4
Health Services, other than Hospitals	14,300	14,400	14,100	-.7	1.4
Educational Services	5,200	3,900	5,000	33.3	4.0
Social Services	5,100	5,100	5,100	.0	.0
Membership Organizations	8,300	8,300	8,200	.0	1.2
GOVERNMENT	60,000	56,500	60,300	6.2	-.5
Federal	11,500	11,300	11,400	1.8	.9
State	15,500	15,700	16,300	-1.3	-4.9
State Education	6,700	5,900	7,000	13.6	-4.3
Local	33,000	29,500	32,600	11.9	1.2
Local Education	18,300	13,600	18,100	34.6	1.1

SOURCE: Developed by the South Dakota Department of Labor in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Sioux Falls MSA Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment (Jobs by Industry)

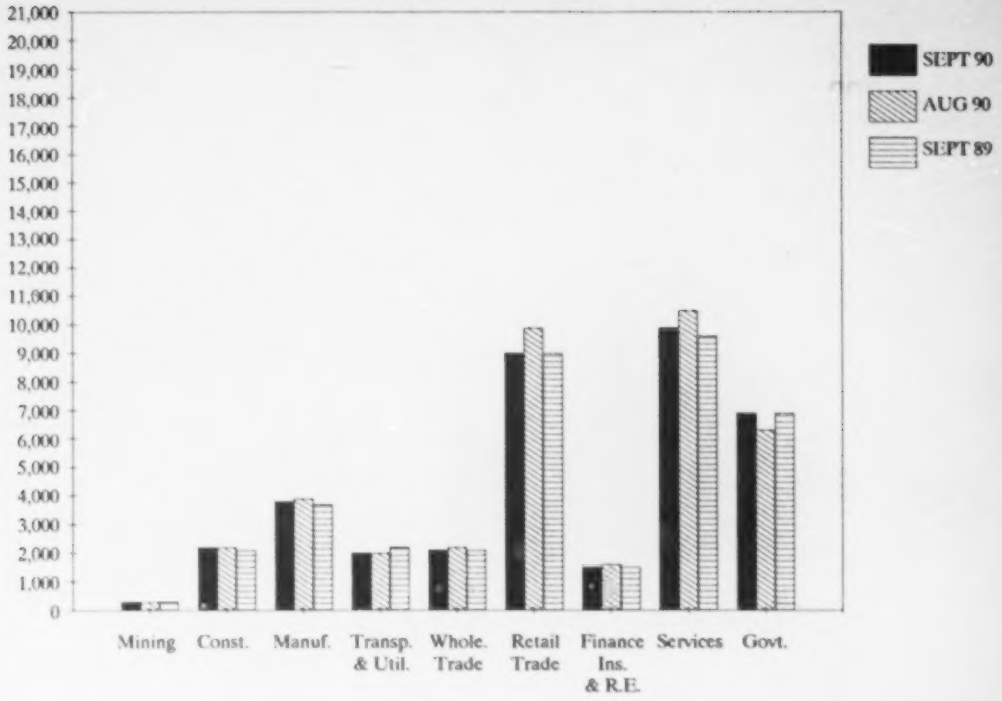


	Sept. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sept. 1989	Percent Change From Last Month	Percent Change From Last Year
TOTAL	74,100	73,700	71,600	.5	3.5
GOODS PRODUCING	12,300	12,600	11,800	-2.4	4.2
*MINING					
CONSTRUCTION	3,700	3,800	3,500	-2.6	5.7
MANUFACTURING	8,500	8,700	8,200	-2.3	3.7
SERVICE PRODUCING	61,800	61,100	59,800	1.1	3.3
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	5,100	5,100	5,100	.0	.0
TRADE	21,200	21,000	19,800	1.0	7.1
Wholesale	6,300	6,400	5,800	-1.6	8.6
Retail	14,900	14,600	14,000	2.1	6.4
FINANCE, INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE	7,800	7,900	7,500	-1.3	4.0
SERVICES	19,500	19,600	19,400	-.5	.5
GOVERNMENT	8,200	7,500	8,000	9.3	2.5

*Mining employment not published, employment less than 100.

SOURCE: Developed by the South Dakota Department of Labor in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Rapid City MSA Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment (Jobs by Industry)



	Sept. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sept. 1989	Percent Change From Last Month	Percent Change From Last Year
TOTAL	37,700	38,900	37,400	-3.1	.8
GOODS PRODUCING	6,300	6,400	6,100	-1.6	3.3
MINING	300	300	300	.0	.0
CONSTRUCTION	2,200	2,200	2,100	.0	4.8
MANUFACTURING	3,800	3,900	3,700	-2.6	2.7
SERVICE PRODUCING	31,400	32,500	31,300	-3.4	.3
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2,000	2,000	2,200	.0	-9.1
TRADE	11,100	12,100	11,100	-8.3	.0
Wholesale	2,100	2,200	2,100	-4.5	.0
Retail	9,000	9,900	9,000	-9.1	.0
FINANCE, INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE	1,500	1,600	1,500	-6.3	.0
SERVICES	9,900	10,500	9,600	-5.7	3.1
GOVERNMENT	6,900	6,300	6,900	9.5	.0

SOURCE: Developed by the South Dakota Department of Labor in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

NOTE: The figures on pages 6, 7 and 8 include almost all nonfarm wage earners (full and part-time) but exclude the self-employed. They are derived from a monthly sample survey of South Dakota non-agricultural establishments and include workers on the payroll for the week including the 12th of the month. These tables compare the current month's employment totals of the major industry groups to the totals of the previous month and year.

Hours and Earnings of Production Workers in South Dakota

	Number of Production Workers			Average Weekly Hours		
	Sept. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sept. 1989	Sept. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sept. 1989
Total Private	186,100	188,800	183,000	34.8	34.3	33.0
Mining	2,300	2,400	2,300	45.0	44.8	43.3
Construction	9,700	10,100	9,600	42.3	42.4	42.7
Manufacturing	24,700	25,100	24,100	42.0	40.7	42.1
Transportation & Public Utilities	11,500	11,200	11,400	39.2	39.2	37.7
Wholesale & Retail Trade	66,000	67,700	65,100	34.2	33.1	30.2
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	12,400	12,500	12,100	36.5	36.1	35.4
Services	59,500	59,800	58,400	29.5	29.8	28.9

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Sept. 1990	Aug 1990	Sept. 1989	Sept. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sept. 1989
Total Private	$271.44	$266.85	$254.76	$7.80	$7.78	$7.72
Mining	555.75	539.84	534.32	12.35	12.05	12.34
Construction	418.77	411.70	409.07	9.90	9.71	9.58
Manufacturing	355.74	341.47	355.32	8.47	8.39	8.44
Transportation & Public Utilities	442.18	446.10	420.36	11.28	11.38	11.15
Wholesale & Retail Trade	212.38	209.52	189.35	6.21	6.33	6.27
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	299.67	295.66	277.18	8.21	8.19	7.83
Services	227.15	224.99	211.84	7.70	7.55	7.33

Hours and Earnings of Manufacturing Production Workers in MSAs

	Number of Manufacturing Production Workers			Average Weekly Hours		
	Sept. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sept. 1989	Sept. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sept. 1989
Sioux Falls MSA	6,300	6,400	5,900	42.7	39.5	46.5
Rapid City MSA	2,900	2,900	2,800	41.2	41.5	38.7

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Sept. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sept. 1989	Sept. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sept. 1989
Sioux Falls MSA	$380.46	$346.42	$397.58	$8.91	$8.77	$8.55
Rapid City MSA	389.34	384.29	344.04	9.45	9.26	8.89

SOURCE: Developed by the South Dakota Department of Labor, in cooperation with the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

NOTE: Average hours and earnings data are derived from reports of payrolls and hours for production and related workers in manufacturing and mining, construction workers in construction, and non-supervisory employees in private service-producing industries. The data cover full and part-time employees who worked during or received pay for the payroll period that includes the 12th of the month. The earnings figures are "gross" figures. They may be higher than employer wage rates, since they reflect premium pay for shift differentials and overtime work. The hours figures relate to the hours for which pay was received; this is different from scheduled or standard work hours.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed[1]

	Sept. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sept. 1989
Sex, Total	1,036	1,520	1,358
Male	471	613	1,183
Female	565	907	175
Race, Total	1,036	1,520	1,358
White	896	1,147	1,183
Nonwhite	140	373	175
Age, Total	1,036	1,520	1,358
Under 45	739	1,043	990
Over 45	297	477	368
[2]Industry, Total	1,036	1,520	1,358
Mining	5	7	11
Construction	85	92	82
Manufacturing	269	257	528
Transportation & Public Utilities	47	58	49
Trade	233	338	293
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	50	67	42
Services	278	581	278
Government	69	120	75
[2]Occupation	1,036	1,520	1,358
Professional & Managerial	236	404	254
Clerical and Sales	256	400	309
Services	132	262	124
Processing	27	41	30
Machine Trade	46	57	50
Benchwork	148	137	338
Structural Work	130	117	135
Other	61	102	118
Duration of Current Unemployment			
Total	1,036	1,520	1,358
1-2 Weeks	204	208	196
3-4 Weeks	153	172	179
5-14 Weeks	420	824	594
15 Weeks & Over	259	316	389

[1]The insured unemployed are those persons who had worked for employers covered by South Dakota's Unemployment Insurance laws and who filed claims for unemployment insurance compensation during the week including the 12th of the month.

[2]Refers to industry and occupation involvement prior to unemployment.

Selected Labor Department Activities

	Sept. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sept. 1989	Percent Change From Last Month	Percent Change From Last Year
Unmployment Insurance					
A. Initial Claims	991	1,063	938	-6.8	5.7
B. Weeks Compensated	4,443	7,904	5,780	-43.8	-23.1
C. Amount of Benefit Payments	$349,947	$652,598	$531,515	-46.4	-34.2
D. Unemployment Trust Fund Bal.	$46,426,495	$46,703,105	$43,622,629	-0.6	6.4
Job Service					
E. Applicants Available (New and Renewal)	7,739	9,744	9,598	-20.6	-19.4
F. Nonfarm Placements	5,970	6,076	6,510	-1.7	-8.3
G. Nonfarm Job Openings	12,076	11,357	13,335	6.3	-9.4

Selected Labor Department Activities (Continued)

	September 1990
H. Unemployment Insurance Savings	$88,619

The data above and in the table at the bottom of page 10 are taken from the records of the state unemployment insurance program and the state Job Service system.

A. Initial Claims - The total number of first claims for unemployment compensation.

B. Weeks Compensated - The total number of weeks for which claimants received compensation.

C. Amount of Benefit Payments - The total amount of money paid to claimants.

D. Unemployment Trust Fund Balance - The fund to which all required Unemployment Insurance taxes are paid and from which all benefits to claimants are paid.

E. Applicants Available (New and Renewals) - The total number of different individuals who registered or renewed their registrations for work at Job Service offices in the state.

F. Nonag Placements - A count of the number of times during the month that Job Service applicants were hired by nonfarm employers.

G. Nonag Job Openings - A count of new job openings received during the month by South Dakota Job Service offices from nonfarm employers.

H. Unemployment Insurance Savings - Estimated dollars saved due to placement of Unemployment Insurance claimants in jobs by Job Service.

From the Division of Labor and Management

A policeman was on duty at a jail where a woman was serving a portion of a sentence for driving without a license. The woman's son resented the policeman and threatened him. The policeman did not have any contact with the woman's son other than as a police officer.

Later, the policeman was on a one week vacation, and away from home. The policeman's family returned home, and the policeman remained for another night. The policeman spent the night sleeping in his car. During the night, the mother and her son approached the policeman's car. While the policeman slept, the mother opened the car door, and her son reached in and stabbed the policeman in the heart. The policeman died of the stab wounds.

The policeman's widow filed a claim for worker's compensation. South Dakota Worker's Compensation Law provides for coverage for injuries "arising out of and in the course of employment." The insurance company defended the claim on the basis that the injury resulting in death did not occur in the course of employment. The policeman was on vacation.

Was the policeman's death compensable under South Dakota worker's compensation?

The Supreme Court observed that the injury occurred at a time later than when it arose. The actual occurrence was merely a culmination of something that had been arising for quite some time. The policeman's death was triggered by his performance of his duties.

The court noted that an injury arises in the course of employment whenever the work envelops the victim with a danger which follows him when he leaves the course of his employment. When that is the case, the accident has its origin in the course of employment, and that fact may remain decisive, not withstanding, that the policeman's death happened after he left the physical ambit of his employment.

The court went on to explain that this incident was like a time bomb which was fueled by the various arrests, contacts, and jailing of the youth's mother. The time bomb exploded when the decedent was on vacation. There were specific incidents which precipitated the attack. The court found the policeman's death to be compensable under the South Dakota Worker's Compensation Law.

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Labor Surplus Areas Announced

The U.S. Department of Labor recently announced the designation of Labor Surplus Areas. Those South Dakota areas so designated were Buffalo, Corson, Dewey and Shannon counties. To be designated as a labor surplus area, a county must have an average unemployment rate which is at least 20 percent above the national average unemployment rate during the previous two calendar years. The qualifying unemployment rate for October 1, 1990 through September 30, 1991 classification as a labor surplus area is 6.6 percent.

Selected National Economic Indicators

	Sept. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sept. 1989	Percent Change From Last Month	Percent Change From Last Month
Consumer Price Index[1]	132.7	131.6	125.0	0.8	6.2
Industrial Production Index[2]	110.7	110.4	108.2	0.3	2.3
Retail Trade Sales[3]	$151,242	$149,643	$147,052	1.1	2.8
Privately Owned Housing Starts[4]	1,135	1,142	1,263	-0.6	-10.1
Bank Prime Loan Rate[5]	10.00	10.00	10.50	0.00	-4.76

[1]U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. 1982-84 = 100.
[2]Federal Reserve Board. Includes manufacturing, mining and utilities. 1987 = 100. Seasonally adjusted.
[3]Bureau of the Census. Adjusted for seasonal, holiday and trading day differences. In millions of dollars.
[4]Bureau of the Census. Includes new, privately owned housing units started. Seasonally adjusted annual rates. In thousands of units.
[5]Federal Reserve Board. Annual rates.